

Community-Based Job Training Grants

New Mexico State University -- Carlsbad



Grantee: New Mexico State University – Carlsbad

Industry Focus: Construction

Key Partners: New Mexico Workforce Connection (One-Stop Career Center); Carlsbad Municipal School District; Loving School District; Constructors, Inc.; Intrepid Potash; Washington Group International; Ken Thurston Homes; Iron Workers of America Local 495; Habitat for Humanity Carlsbad Area; Eddy County; and Carlsbad Community Development Corporation

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Leveraged Amount: \$1,402,030

Location of Grant Activities: Eddy, Lea, Chaves, Otero, Lincoln, Curry and Roosevelt counties, New Mexico

Challenge: Employers in Southeast New Mexico are having trouble filling vacancies for construction trade workers. Workforce needs for new local residential and commercial projects are being met through recruitment efforts in El Paso, Texas, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. There is also a regional shortage of housing for low to moderate-income families. A program to train high school students in construction trades is in place, but it lacks qualified instructors, distance-learning options, on-site instruction, pathways to apprenticeship, and a degree-granting component. Wider availability of advanced training opportunities would ensure higher wages for area residents, helping to combat the high poverty rates, and low levels of education seen throughout the region.

Addressing the Challenge: The Construction Trades Vocational Training Program – Phase II, will develop a trained workforce for the construction industry by tapping into alternative labor pools. Through the creation of an “Associate’s in Applied Science in Building Trades Technology Degree,” the program will promote entry into the construction industry of members of untapped labor pools, including at-risk youth, women, and dislocated workers. Students will have the opportunity to pursue secondary vocational technical classes, post-secondary certificate programs, and apprenticeships.

Projected Outcomes:

- Create an associate’s degree program that recruits 35 alternative labor pool students annually
- Starting in May 2010, 25 new students will graduate annually with credentials and obtain jobs/apprenticeships in the construction industry
- Graduates will earn average hourly wages of \$15.50
- A construction career ladder will be developed, and students will also receive the New Mexico Career Readiness Certification as a portable credential